



UTILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2014

Members Present:

Trustee Jeff Hicks, Treasurer Howard Pizzo, and Trustee R. Douglas Kosinski

Members Absent:

N/A

Staff Members Present:

Township Manager Richard Watkins, Deputy Township Manager Jen Roberts, and Utility Director Tom Morrissey

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Hicks at 4:38 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

N/A

3. Set/Adjust Agenda:

N/A

4. Projects for 2014 and Their Projected Timeline:

Tom Morrissey provided an update on the following items:

- Wastewater Treatment Blower – continuation of the 2013 projects. Blower has been ordered and should be here in March. This project should come in under budget.
- Skyway Lane Lift Station – this is a continuation project. The pumps were approved by the Board. Pre-bid meeting was held last week. The project is out for bid and will be brought before the Board by the middle to end of March. This project should cost \$200,000 or less.
- Snow Road Water Tower Painting – out for bid right now. Painting inside and outside with new logos. Projected cost of \$148,000, which should be done middle of May or the first of June.
- Webster Road Water Main – A decision has been made not to hire an engineering firm for this project. We are going to engineer it and inspect it in-house to save some costs. Everything is ready to go, and will be out for bid on the 17th with an opening on the 21st.

Tom Morrissey then summarized by stating these projects are all underway and should be within budget.

5. How the Utility Department Responded to the Ice Storm and What Changes/Adjustments to the Operations are Needed/Required:

Tom Morrissey provided an update on issues the Township had during the 2013 ice storm, which were gathered at a meeting with the department Supervisors. He also reported that there were no equipment failures and no one lost services. He then reported on the following internal issues:

- Lift Stations – the township has 18 lift stations. The only lift station that could be improved on is River Ridge as it has a very small fuel tank, which required a lot of man power hours to keep running. He suggested that the Township purchase a 100 gallon fuel tank for the waste water plant, and take the current 150K generator to the River Ridge to maximize the Township's use.
- On the water side the Willow ground storage has the capability of running one large pump on the generator. The problem is that it runs 3,500 gallons per minute, which over pressurizes the water system, and when that surge hits if there are any weak pipes, it tends to pop the pipes out of the ground. He would like to make adjustments to the system to make it more controllable. He is awaiting a third bid to come in before going ahead with this project. The current low bid is \$2,800.00.
- Minor issue at GM booster station, which has a very large generator. The louvers on the south side opened part way, which took two people to open. The motor was replaced, and a removable pin was created, so that it would be easier on future operators. Also, there was a problem getting the fuel trucks close enough to fill the generator, so additional hose was purchased to prevent this from happening in the future.
- Waste water treatment plant – Tom provided an overview of our current situation, and indicated that there was not a problem during the ice storm, but noted that it would not be effective during April or May storms. He suggested the Township purchase a generator to offset any future needs, which is not in the CIP or budget, and is projected at approximately \$50,000. A decision on where to put this generator is currently being discussed. Tom also stated that this has to be addressed as it is one of our weak points.
- Ultraviolet disinfection – Tom stated that this is the only area we had a little issue with, because this building is not equipped for any backup power. For a period of time we did not have any disinfection. Under our MDPS permit we did not have to disinfect from December to April, but now we have to disinfect all year round. We are currently working on ways to correct this problem.

- Standard Operating Procedure Manuals for Emergency Operations – This manual was kept in a convenient place, but employees would have to run back and forth to access emergency information. We have since laminated pages from this manual and attached the pages to specific equipment, which provides more convenient access for employees during an emergency.

Tom Morrissey ended his report by stating that the department did very well, and that he was very proud of how his employees performed during this situation.

Richard Watkins provided a report on how the BW&L lost our phone numbers during the ice storm we received no communication from them. The day after the ice storm happened, they got back in their offices and found our phone number, and they called saying that they were going to give the Township a 9% increase in our water rates, which will cost us a quarter of a million dollars. He then provided a bit of history with regard to rate increases and the contract details between the BW&L and the Township. Richard stated that he is currently looking into what it would take for the Township to build its own treatment plant with the same quality of water, which would have an approximate cost of \$35,000,000. He also stated that he is in discussions with Lansing Township with regard to a possible partnership.

Tom Morrissey stated that Mason had built their own plant, after seeing what Delta was going through with the BW&L, and are now quite happy. Richard indicated that this is the direction he would like to go in, and that he will continue researching options for the Township, and to update the group on his findings with regard to the Township having its own treatment plant.

6. Other Business:

A discussion on Road and Drains with regard to complaints, and how the Township has no control over them occurred and included the following items:

- East Lansing plows in Delta Township
- Eaton County Road Commission's priorities with regard to plowing
- Costs and items required for Delta to handle its own snow removal
- Resident complaints
- Lack of control over the snow removal problems
- State funding

7. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.